Water Commission. The Central Government is willing to render any technical assistance required in the matter.

Modernisation of Air Safety Network

696. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to modernise and update Air Safety Network in the country;

(b) the present status of the projects undertaken in this regard;

(c) the reasons for delay in completion of some projects and action taken against those responsible for faulty execution delay-resulting in consequent cost escalation; and

(d) the details of plan of action for ongoing and new projects particularly in Maharashtra and funds provided therefor during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) In addition to the modernisation of Air Traffic Service System at Delhi and Mumbai, navigation and surveillance systems are being upgraded by installation of Secondary surveillance Radars at Madras, Calcutta, Trivandrum, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Nagpur, Varanasi and Bhubaneshwar. Out of the above, the radars at Guwahati, Trivandrum and Hyderabad have been installed and those at Chennai, Calcutta and Ahmedabad are under installation.

(b) So far as the modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports are concerned, the system site acceptance test at Delhi airport has been completed and operational trials are going on. The system at Mumbai is likely to be ready for operational trials by October, 1997.

(c) The reasons for the delay in the completion of the project are as under:

(i) Abnormal rainfall during 1993 and 1994 which affected the civil construction work;

(ii) Change in the scope of the work;

(iii) Delay in replacement of components which became unserviceable during installation;

(iv) Modifications had to be carried out by the contractor to meet the specifications;

(v) Procedural delays in obtaining Customs Duty and Import Licence clearances.

(d) As mentioned above, the modernised Air Traffic Service System at Mumbai would become operational by October, 1997 and the total cost of the project for Mumbai airport is Rs. 212 crores.

Erosion in Padma River

697. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Padma River flowing into Bangladesh and which partly spills over into the Murshidabad district of West Bengal is causing alarm in the State;

(b) whether the riverbed erosion currently seen in the river can move on the lead to similar calamitous trands in the Ganga, particularly when there is hardly a district of 2 km. between the Padma and the Ganga; and

(c) if so, the technical assistance or any other assistance proposed to be rendered to the West Bengal Government by the Union Government to check the unabated erosion in the Padma river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Yes, Sir. During high flood, river Padma/Ganga flowing into Bangladesh partly spills over in the Murshidabad district and causes damage.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission recently constituted an Expert Committee to study erosion problems of the river Ganga/Padma in West Bengal for taking up suitable measures. The Committee has submitted its report along with recommendations. The Committee has also dealt with this problem of erosion on the river Ganga/Padma near Fazilpur, where the distance between the rivers Padma and Bhagirathi is the least and has suggested suitable measures for checking the erosion in the Padma river.

[Translation]

Birth Centenary of Morarji Desai

698. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some schemes were declared by the Union Government on the birth centenary of Shri Morarji Desai;

(b) if so, whether any declaration was made to open a Naturopathy and Yoga College in Delhi and if so, the action taken so far in this regard; and